

Department of Commerce, Community
and Economic Development

Division of Corporations, Business
and Professional Licensing

Board of Massage Therapists

Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2024



Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing

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This report is required under Alaska Statute 08.01.070(10).

**Board of Massage Therapists
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**Board of Massage Therapists
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Board Membership (as of the Date This Report was Approved)

Date of Final Board Approval: 6/10/2024

Atwell, Annetta (North Pole)
Endle, Julie (Palmer)
Foster, Emily (Palmer)
Shew, Kelli (Chugiak)

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Accomplishments

The State of Alaska Board of Massage Therapists licensing program is operating as an established licensing program. Ongoing regulatory obligations have been satisfactory met. The board can anticipate adjustments to the regulatory framework as the massage profession evolves over time. The board continues to partner with the division of professional licensing to improve efficiency in application processing, reduce program costs and decrease application processing time.

The board has partnered with the division of professional licensing to continue to expedite the process of licensing. This has been done by changing the board policy to review applications on a weekly basis. The board has also identified specific application conditions that the board approves for delegation of approval of issuance of license to the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing.

The Board voted in January of 2024 to elect Annetta Atwell as the Chair of the Board of Massage Therapists.

Chair Atwell has participated in legislative hearings to address the questions and concerns of the legislature as the Board of Massage Therapist was under consideration for extension of the Board of Massage Therapists under Senate Bill 228. The bill has been approved.

Chair Atwell also attended legislative hearings to address the questions and concerns of the legislature as they deliberated on executive order 127 that would eliminate the Board of Massage Therapists. This executive order did not pass a legislative vote.

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Activities

The Board of Massage Therapists held a public in person town hall meeting in Anchorage during the FY 2024 September meeting. The board presented information of the licensing and regulatory process and directly answered question of public who attended both in person and online through zoom.

Board member Annetta Atwell attended the Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards annual meeting to respresent the Alaska board of massage therapists as resolutions that impact the national exam were deliberated.

The board deliberated and worked on refining regulation that is intended to address public safety issues and license processing issues on the subjects of online advertising, application Documentation and disciplinary action notification.

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Needs

The Board will need to continue the membership with the Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards (FSMTB) and attend the annual meeting to represent the interests of the State of Alaska. The FSMTB is the non-profit organization that is responsible for the national massage therapy entry level exam. Member States contribute to the decision making of this organization through member resolutions that are deliberated upon during the annual meeting.

The board currently has one board seat that is without appointment. The board is expected to have two additional board seats available for appointment March 1 2025. The board would like the support in the appointment of these seats.

The board will be addressing the clarification of the regulations related to the cardiopulmonary resuscitation course requirements in initial and renewal applications.